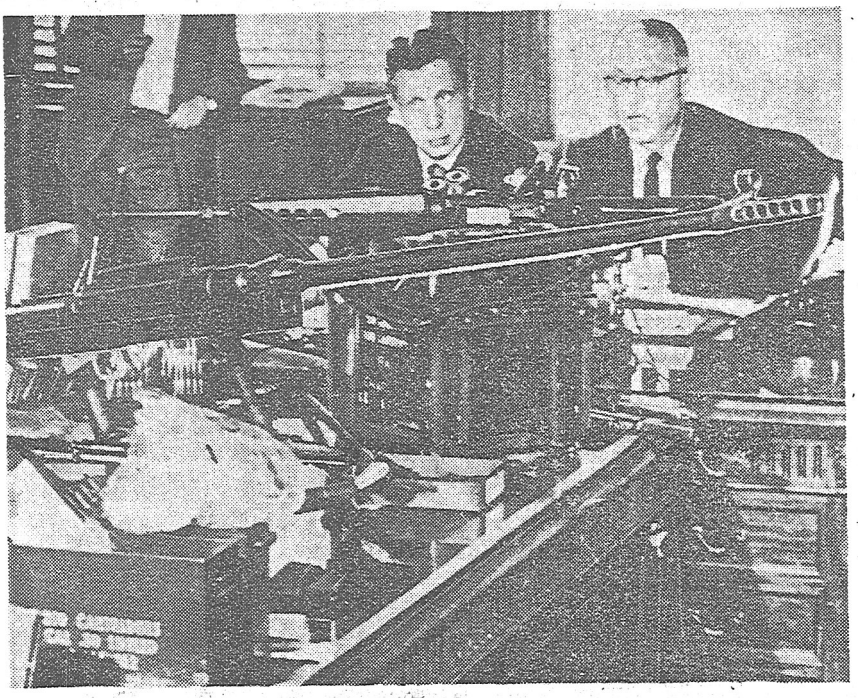
Post 8/24/67

Four Men, Arsenal Seized in Plot



United Press International

Bronx DA Shows Seized Arsenal

"The seized weapons included 45 rifles, seven shotguns, 14 hand guns, 18 sticks of dynamite, two cans holding 50 rounds of black powder, one anti-tank gun, one submachine-gun, a gun hidden in a cane, three hand grenades, 103 high power blasting caps, one plastic bomb, 12 hunting knives, one machete and 250,000 rounds of live ammunition for guns."

NEW YORK, Aug. 23 (AP) —Four Bronx men were arrested as bold but bumbling right-wing terrorists today after raids in which police seized an arsenal of rifles, grenades, dynamite, an antitank and gun and 250,000 rounds of ammunition.

The four were charged with a plot to blow up a Bronx meeting addressed by Herbert Aptheker, an American Communist leader, in June.

But the bomb that was planted exploded two days too late.

Burton Roberts, Chief Assistant District Attorney, called the defendants a "disorganized group of rugged individualists, misguided in thinking they were working for an American ideal."

Literature Turned Up

Bronx District Attorney Isidor Dollinger said the raids turned up literature of the John Birch Society, the National Renaissance Party, the Minutemen and the Black Muslims.

Police undercover agents working on the Aptheker bomb case were said to have learned that the defendants were planning a subsequent bombing of the Bronx headquarters of a Federal antipoverty agency.

Police with search warrants carried out midnight-to-dawn raids on homes and business places of the defendants.

Roberts said the seized weapons included 45 rifles, 7 shotguns, 14 handguns, 18

sticks of dynamite, 2 cans holding 50 pounds of black powder, an antitank gun, a submachine gun, a gun hidden in a cane, 3 hand grenades, 103 high-power blasting caps, 1 plastic bomb, 12 hunting knives, 1 machete and 250,000 rounds of live ammunition for various guns.

Headquarters in Store

The headquarters of the group was said by police to be a sporting goods store in the Bronx operated by one of the defendants, George Colitto, 52. Colitto, Peter Psyras, 37, a luncheonette owner, and Michael Mikulik, 37, a postal worker, were charged with attempted murder, conspiracy to commit murder, possession of explosives and violation of the weapons law.

A fourth defendant, Warren Hoh, 40, a city Parks Department employe, was charged with conspiracy to use a bomb. Roberts said Colitto and Mikulik described themselves as members of the John Birch Society.

According to Roberts, the bomb that went off too late was planted in the second-floor Allerton Community and Social Center in the Bronx, where Aptheker addressed a meeting June 13. The bomb went off June 15, blowing a hole in the ceiling but injuring no one.

Aptheker heads the American Institute for Marxist Studies and is regarded as the leading theoretician of the Communist Party in America.